

The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

March 1993

OCEAN CITY BUILDS A TRUNKED SYSTEM

Scanner listeners visiting Ocean City this summer may feel a little left out if their scanners don't receive 800 MHz. Ocean City, like so many other local governments, has decided to make the pilgrimage to 800 MHz.

Currently, we have few details as to how the system will be configured. We do know that public works and sanitation departments will be among the first city agencies to switch to the state-of-the-art communications system.

Should you find yourself in Ocean City, it wouldn't hurt to check the inputs (45 MHz lower) for possible simplex activity. Call signs include WNZT398-9. Many thanks to Earl Suitor for bringing this to our attention.

Conventional Channels

(to be used with the trunked system)

851.2875 852.4375 853.9625 855.2375 855.4625

Trunked Channels

856.7375 857.7375 858.7375 859.7375 860.7375



DISTRICT HOSPITAL/MEDICAL CENTER SECURITY FREQUENCIES

by Alan Henney

Several months ago I started on a crusade to locate and verify the security frequencies for every hospital/medical center in the District of Columbia. With the recent introduction of license fees, I was curious to see just how many hospitals held (or ever held) licenses for their security frequencies. Much to my surprise, security operations for at least 14 of the 17 District hospitals operate on licensed frequencies.

We have yet to find security frequencies for four hospitals (Capitol Hill, Hospital for Sick Children, National Rehabilitation and Sibley Memorial). If you can help, please do! The two-digit hospital code, as used by the DCFD, appears before each facility name.

11 CAPITOL HILL (700 Constitution Ave, NE)

Capitol Hill Hospital is currently closed. The Capitol Hill Group, however, plans to reopen the facility as a nursing home/hospital (with emergency room) in the near future. Try 151.685, 155.16 and 155.34.

INSIDE

Ocean City to go 800

Hospital/Medical Center Security

NewsScan

USPS Inspectors

Mystery Frequencies (Identified)

DC Fire Communications Tour

02 CHILDREN'S NATIONAL

(111 Michigan Ave, NW)

155.2800 s [123.0]

03 COLUMBIA (FOR WOMEN) (2425 L St, NW)

155.2200 s [162.2]

06 DC GENERAL (1900 Massachusetts Ave, SE)

155.7150 s [118.8]

08 GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

(901 23rd St, NW)

464.9250 r [74.4]

07 GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

(3800 Reservoir Rd, NW)

151.9550 s [127.3] GERMS (BLS Ambulance)

464.8250 r [192.8]

01 GREATER SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY

(1310 Southern Ave, SE)

155.2200 s [118.8] Parking Lot Security

464.8250 r [186.2] Building Security

09 HADLEY MEMORIAL

(4601 Martin Luther King, Jr Ave, SE)

155.2200 s [88.5]

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

(1731 Bunker Hill Rd, NE)

Try 154.6.

05 HOWARD UNIVERSITY (2041 Georgia Ave, NW)

155.2800 s [186.2]

NATIONAL REHABILITATION (102 Irving St, NW)

Try 155.22, 155.28 and 155.34.

10 PROVIDENCE (1150 Varnum St, NE)

155.1600 s [167.9]

SAINT ELIZABETH'S (2700 Martin Luther King, Jr Ave, SE)

165.2625 S [None]

12 SIBLEY MEMORIAL (5255 Loughboro Rd, NW)

Try 155.28 and 463.375

15 VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION (50 Irving St, NW)

168.3250 s [None]

14 WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

(6825 16th St, NW)

165.0875 s [131.8]

13/04 WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER/

MEDSTAR (110 Irving St, NW)

464.7750 r [151.4] Hospital Security



NewsScan

by Brent Baker

Cellular-Caused Cancer? A Florida man's claim on CNN's "Larry King Live" that his wife's brain cancer was caused by radio waves emitted by her hand-held cellular phone led cellular companies to launch a public relations counter-offensive in late January. Cellular critics contend it's no coincidence that brain cancer occurs behind the ear in heavy users of hand-held phones, just where the antenna is transmitting near microwave range radio waves.

Not all agree, however. Former PRC Inc. CEO Gary Kennedy developed a non-cancerous tumor behind his left ear, but he told The Washington Post that "he does not 'see any relationship' between his cellular phone use and the tumor." Though the Times reported that Kennedy has noticed "more and more people he knows or knows of have developed brain tumors," and they use cellular

phones, he insisted "You probably could pick nine or ten common factors, and be hard-pressed' to say any single factor contributed to the illness."

A Reuters news wire story noted that the hand-held phones operate at six-tenths of a watt while mobile phones transmit at three watts, "but car antennas are not near where people sit." No news story discussed 800 MHz portable radios used by police and fire departments which transmit with more wattage than cellular phones.

In response to the controversy, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, no friend of scanner owners, announced it wants to pay up to a million dollars for a government study of the issue.

Privacy from Scanners. "If You Have a Cellular Phone, Your Car Could be Leaking More Than Water, Oil or Gas," reads the headline on a display ad placed by a company called PrivaFone. The ad copy continues: "If you have a car phone, it could be the most dangerous leak in your car, because you could be leaking information. With over ten million scanners sold, it's getting harder to keep your cellular conversations private. So when privacy really matters, you can either stop talking on your car phone, or you can start talking on PrivaFone. For about the cost of a fax machine or a shredder, you can plug PrivaFone into most popular brands of cellular." The ad doesn't say exactly what the device does.

PG Police Shortage. A mid-January Washington Times story reported the charge from the Prince George's County's FOP that an early retirement plan has left the county shorthanded. Corporal Darryl Jones, President of the FOP, claimed: "Early retirement was designed to reduce the size of the command staff, but what happened is we're down about 100 officers from the street." According to the union, "the total number of officers on the force fell from 1,170 last year to 1,097 today" and "the number of patrol officers fell from 599 to 578."

PG/DC Joint Patrol. Criminals, who cross the PG/District line to escape capture by the police from the other jurisdiction, have become such a major problem that the police from the two departments have teamed up in a new program. As summarized by The Washington Times in late January: "The program -- Partners on Patrol -- will put an officer from each jurisdiction in one police car so they can patrol and make arrests on both sides of Southern and Eastern avenues. The pilot program will operate at first between Kenilworth Avenue and Marlboro Pike."

Fingerprint Crime Solver. "An automated fingerprint system started more than a year ago by the Maryland State Police has solved hundreds of cases and matched even more suspects to the various aliases used in their crimes," a January AP story reported. Called the Maryland Automated Fingerprint Information System (MAFIS), the new tool allows police to run computerized comparisons of fingerprints found at crime scenes. So far, employees of the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository have entered more than 940 thousand fingerprint cards into the system.

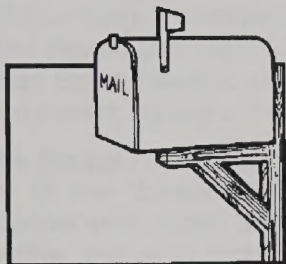
Live-In Cop. Last June an Alexandria police officer moved into a city paid-for home in a drug-ridden area. The policy of having an officer become part of the neighborhood worked so well, that the city is about to do it again. According to a Washington Times article, the city's housing authority agreed to provide a free apartment to the police so an officer can live in Old Town's "the Berg" project. In 1989 an Alexandria officer was killed during a hostage incident in the low-income Berg project.

Gay Police. The controversy over President Clinton trying to allow gays open admission to the armed services, prompted The Washington Post to look at the policies of local police departments. According to the Jan. 27 article, District, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Arlington County "do not inquire about the sexual orientation of job applicants." In contrast, "Virginia State Police and the Fairfax County Police do not hire gay officers, saying that they believe homosexual activity may violate the state's anti-sodomy laws and that their departments do not hire people who break the law." But a woman, who says her application to become a state trooper was rejected because she is a lesbian, is suing the Maryland State Police.

Helicopter Help. "Video cameras to be installed this month on Fairfax County police helicopters will help police and the Virginia Department of Transportation respond more quickly to traffic problems," a Feb. 11 Fairfax Journal article began. The story explained: "The airborne cameras, bought and installed with a \$375,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration, will begin operating the week of February 23." When an accident occurs, "video footage can be transmitted simultaneously to VDOT traffic managers on the ground." We may be able to see it too, as the Journal story noted: "Fairfax County Police Chief Michael Young said television news organizations also will be able to use the footage."

Choppers Chopped. DC Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly's proposed 1994 city budget includes a \$25 million cut in the police budget. According to a Feb. 5 Washington Times article the Mayor proposed cutting health clinics in police and fire stations and "eliminating the police helicopter unit" consisting of "three McDonnell Douglas 500 helicopters." But the cut may not happen since the police and key members of Congress will oppose the cut.

USPS INSPECTORS



One of the lesser known investigative arms of the Federal Government is the Postal Inspectors. Both Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas are a part of the Eastern Region of the Postal Inspection Service. Eastern Region headquarters is located at Bela Cynwyd,

PA (just outside Philadelphia). The Postal Inspection Service serves as the inspector general for the USPS and provides law enforcement services. As the inspector general it conducts internal investigations. In the law enforcement role it is responsible for protection of the mails, including funds and property, and conducts investigations of violations of postal laws. In the latter role it often assists some of the better known federal agencies, such as the FBI and IRS. The inspectors become involved any time the US Mail is alleged to have been used for conducting any kind of illegal activity. As a result the service is often involved in investigations of organized crime and the various drug cartels.

Each division (Baltimore and Washington) dispatches its own inspectors and identifies as "Washington Base" or "Baltimore Base." Inspectors usually identify using their surname. All of the postal inspector frequencies use a CTCSS tone of 82.5. Although frequencies are numbered, they are most often referred to by color.

The Security Force operates separately to provide security for postal facilities and uses patrol and post numbers for identification. The Security Force uses no CTCSS tone.

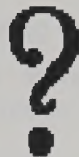
INSPECTORS:

415.0500 r F1: Red Net
414.7500 r F2: Blue Net
415.4750 r F3: Green Net
415.0500 s F4:
414.7500 s F5:
415.4750 s F6: Gray Net

The inputs are 407.725; 407.775, and 411.65.

SECURITY FORCE:

418.3 is used as a repeater (input 416.775) as F1 and simplex as F2..



MYSTERY FREQUENCIES OF THE MONTH

Two frequencies from the October 1992 issue have been identified:

413.925 is the security channel for the offices of the Federal Reserve

Headquarters at 20th and Constitution, NW.

38.83 (CTSS 192.8) has been identified as transportation and maintenance at the National Institutes for Health in Bethesda.

One frequency from last month's issue has also been identified:

155.76 Is the "new" VHF fire department frequency for King George County in Virginia.

Drop a note if you have some frequencies you hear but aren't sure who they are. Remember, the old adage, "the only dumb question is the one you don't ask." With all the talent in the area, somebody should know, or by comparing notes and locations can figure out.



DC FIRE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION TOUR

Gene Lichtman invites us along for a tour of the DC Fire communications center. The tour is presently scheduled for Saturday, March 13 at 8:30 a.m. The DC Fire communications center is at 300 McMillan Dr., NW on the southwest side of the McMillan Reservoir near Howard University (just look for the antenna tower). Parking is available in the lot beyond the communications center, or on the street. For more details call Gene at 301-649-1321.

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE AIR SHOW

The Thunderbirds will perform for the May 14-15 open house. Call 301-981-6681 for details.

* * *

Looking for some accessories for your portable Bearcat scanner? Mike Totten has for sale three BP205 battery packs (used by the BC100XLT, BC200XLT and BC205XLT scanners). Mike also has a spare battery charger and BC200XLT service manual for sale. For details, call Mike (301-853-1700).

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. Additionally, we welcome frequency and visitor requests, but kindly include a SASE.

Alan Henney
6912 Prince George's Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912-5414
301-270-2531 (voice) / 301-270-5774 (fax)

Newsletter Staff:

Alan Henney, General Editor and Acting Treasurer
Bill Hardman, Associate Editor
Mike Peyton and Dave Clark, Distribution
Brent Baker, NewsScan Editor
Ken Fowler, Amateur Radio Net Coordinator

The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are \$8. Please make checks payable to Alan Henney.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!

11

[REDACTED]